

REMARKS

Claims 9 through 14, 18, 19, 22, 68 through 94 and 101 through 113 are now pending in the application. Claims 2 through 6, 23 through 27, 57 through 64 and 95 through 100 have been canceled. Claims 101 through 113 are newly presented. Support for the new claims may be found throughout the application, drawings and claims as originally filed and as such, Applicant submits that no new matter has been presented. The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the amendments and remarks contained herein and pass the case to issue.

NEWLY PRESENTED CLAIMS

Claims 101 through 113 are newly presented. Applicant submits that new independent Claim 101 is not taught or suggested by the combinations of references that have been cited by the Examiner. In this regard, Applicant notes that Claim 101 recites that “each of the portions of the insertion portion defining an outer planar surface that is angled upwardly toward the flange portion and outwardly from the longitudinal axis [of the resilient clip]” and that each wing member has a warped planar outer surface that coextends with the outer planar surface of an associated one of the portions of the insertion portion and which is located on a same side of the longitudinally axis as that that of the associated one of the portions of the insertion portion.

References such as U.S. Patent No. 4,300,865 to Murray do not employ warped wing members that coextend with any portion of an insertion portion. In this regard, the ‘865 patent describes each wing (22) as being joined to an end segment (16a) of each leg (16) along a side edge boundary (24). As is shown in Figures 2 and 4 of the ‘865 patent, the side edge boundary (24) is a corner about which the wing (22) is bent. Accordingly, each wings (22) is disposed in a plane that is separate from that in which any portion of the leg (16) is contained. Also, each wing (22) includes an upper end 22b that is upset or bent laterally away from an associated leg (i.e., bent outwardly from the leg) - the remainder of the wing (22) is flat. Consequently, the

'865 patent to Murray does not teach or suggest Applicant's twisted wing clip as set forth in Claim 101.

Furthermore, U.S. Patent No. 4,925,351 to Fisher does not employ wing members that are warped but rather employs a pair of fingers (50) whose sharp outer edges engage the lateral sidewalls of an opening (30). The application of a pull-out force to the Fisher clip causes the sharp outer edges of the fingers (50) to "dig" into the lateral sidewalls of the opening (30) as the sharp outer edges are oriented generally perpendicular to the pull-out force. Applicant notes that twisting of the fingers (50) in the manner suggested by the Examiner would orient the sharp outer edges at an angle to the lateral sidewalls of the opening (30). Accordingly, twisting of the fingers (50) in the manner suggested by the Examiner would permit the fingers (50) to slide along the lateral sidewalls of the opening (30) rather than dig into them. Applicant submits that such a modification renders the Fischer clip unsuited for its intended purpose and as such, there can be no suggestion or motivation to combine the '351 patent to Fischer with U.S. Patent No. 4,300,865 to Murray.

In view of the above remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 101 through 113 are in condition for allowance.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER


The Examiner has stated that Claims 9 through 14, 18, 19, 22 and 68 through 94 are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present

application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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